

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an exterior body panel for use on automotive vehicles, comprising:
 - providing a decorative web layer;
 - forming a laminate by providing a thermoplastic material on a top side and on a bottom side of the decorative web layer, at least one of the top side and bottom side being substantially transparent;
 - heating the laminate;
 - conforming the laminate into a desired shape; and
 - cooling the laminate;
 - wherein the thermoplastic material on the side opposite to the transparent layer, when cooled, is sufficiently rigid to form an exterior body panel for attachment to the exterior surface of a vehicle frame.
2. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the decorative web layer is flexible.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the laminate is pressed in a vacuum molding die machine comprising an upper die and a lower die.
4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein a vacuum conforms the laminate to one of the upper die and the lower die.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of making vacuum formed exterior body panels, comprising:
 - providing a layer of decorative web material;
 - depositing on one side of the decorative web material a mixture of epoxy and ~~resin~~ plastic which when cured forms a plastic layer that is substantially transparent;

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depositing on an opposite side of the decorative web material a mixture of epoxy and resin plastic which when cured forms a plastic layer;

heating the decorative web material and the plastic layers;

pressing the decorative web material, the top plastic layer and the bottom plastic layer in a vacuum mold to form a laminate; and

cooling the pressed laminate;

wherein the plastic layer on the side opposite to the transparent layer, when cooled, is sufficiently rigid to form an exterior body panel for attachment to the exterior surface of a vehicle frame.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the layer of decorative web material is flexible.

7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the vacuum mold comprises an upper die and a lower die.

8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 5, further comprising removing air from the vacuum mold in forming the molded laminate.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the providing a the decorative web layer includes providing a the decorative web layer formed from one of woven fabric and screening.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the providing a decorative layer the layer of decorative web material includes providing a decorative

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layer the layer of decorative web material formed from one of woven fabric and screening.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~4~~ 24, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by spraying.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the depositing of the mixture of epoxy and ~~resin~~ plastic on both sides of the decorative web material includes depositing the mixture of epoxy and ~~resin~~ plastic by spraying.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~4~~ 24, wherein the forming the laminate includes applying the thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by applying pre-formed sheets of thermoplastic material.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 5, wherein the depositing of the mixture of epoxy and ~~resin~~ plastic on both sides of the decorative web material includes depositing the mixture of epoxy and ~~resin~~ plastic by applying pre-formed sheets of epoxy and ~~resin~~ plastic.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an exterior body panel on an automotive ~~vehicles~~ vehicle, comprising:

providing a decorative web layer;

forming a laminate by providing a mixture of an epoxy and a thermoplastic material on a top side and on a bottom side of the decorative web layer, at least one of the top side and bottom side being substantially transparent;

heating the laminate;

conforming the laminate into a desired shape;

cooling the laminate; and

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attaching the laminate directly to the exterior of the frame of an automotive vehicle by attaching the thermoplastic material that is on the side of the laminate opposite to the transparent material directly to the exterior of the frame of an automotive vehicle.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the providing a decorative web layer includes providing a decorative web layer formed from one of ~~woven~~ fabric and screening.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming the laminate includes the step of applying the mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by spraying.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the forming the laminate includes the step of applying the mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material to the decorative web layer by applying pre-formed sheets of the mixture of the epoxy and the thermoplastic material.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the conforming the laminate into a desired shape includes the step of pressing the laminate in a vacuum mold.

24. (New) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material contains an epoxy.